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Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 08784 181136Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------041547 181139Z /13
O 181131Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6888

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 08784

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS EG SA TC KU
SUBJECT: FUNDING OF F-5S FOR EGYPT

REF: STATE 68709

1. SINCE WE HAVE NO RECORD OF RECEIPT OF 77 STATE 195932 (REF C OF REFTEL), WE ARE IN THE DARK AS TO EXACTLY WHAT THE SUDANESE ARRANGEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARA 6 REFTEL IS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING REPEAT OF 77 STATE 195932 SOONEST TO ENABLE US TO MAKE A JUDGMENT RE LIKELY GOE PREFERENCE ON FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS.

2. RE PARA 3 REFTEL, WE ARE SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY SUGGESTION THAT SAG IS DIRECTLY FINANCING EGYPT'S PURCHASE OF C-130S UNDER 1977 PROGRAM. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT SAUDIS MAY HAVE PROVIDED FUNDS FOR INITIAL DOWNPAYMENT, BUT THAT ABU DHABI SUBSEQUENTLY PAID BULK OF COSTS.

3. RE PARA 7 REFTEL, WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING BASIS FOR SUGGESTION THAT DETAILS OF AGREEMENT FOR CURRENT PURCHASE OF 14 C-130S FOR EGYPT HAVE ALREADY BEEN WORKED OUT DIRECTLY BETWEEN CAIRO AND JIDDA. AS RECENTLY AS TEN DAYS AGO, GAMASY TOLD AMBASSADOR HE HAD NO FUNDS, THAT SAUDIS WERE CHARACTERISTICALLY SLOW IN PROVIDING PROMISED
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MONIES AND THAT HE HAD PREVIOUS DAY MET WITH SADAT TO GIVE THE PRESIDENT AN INDICATION OF MONETARY NEEDS OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY FOR 1978. HE HAD URGED THAT SADAT CONTACT KING KHALID ASAP ON THIS MATTER. WHETHER SADAT HAS DONE SO OR NOT IS UNCERTAIN, SINCE EGYPTIAN/SAUDI RELATIONS ARE AT THE MOMENT A BIT STRAINED. FONMIN KAMEL TOLD AMBASSADOR FEW DAYS AGO HE HAD PROPOSED TO SADAT THAT, ALTHOUGH HE

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(KAMEL) KNEW NOTHING ABOUT SAUDIS, HE BE SENT TO SAUDI ARABIA ASAP TO TRY TO PATCH THINGS UP. SADAT HAD TOLD HIM THE TIME IS NOT YET RIGHT FOR SUCH A VISIT. WE HAVE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT SINCE KAMAL ADHAM WAS REMOVED FROM HIS LIAISON ROLE LAST JANUARY, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. ASHRAF MARWAN HAS MADE A FEW TRIPS TO SAUDI ARABIA (SOME IN AOI CONTEXT) AND HAS REPORTEDLY RECEIVED PROMISES, BUT GAMASY INSISTS NO SAUDI FUNDS HAVE YET BEEN FORTHCOMING FOR THIS YEAR AND PROFESSES TO BE UNCLEAR AS TO WHAT SAUDIS MAY HAVE AGREED TO FINANCE. EILTS

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